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United States Patent [19]
Nishioka

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[54] **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
DETERMINING THE SIZE OF AN OBJECT
DURING ENDOSCOPY**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** 600/117; 600/104

[58] **Field of Search** 600/101, 102,
600/103, 104, 117, 118, 167, 168, 176

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An endoscopic imaging system for viewing an object within a patient's body cavity includes: an endoscope for viewing an image of the object, the endoscope comprising a distal end, an instrument channel extending therethrough, and a lens at the distal end adjacent the instrument channel; and an elongate probe configured to be inserted through the instrument channel and contact the object, the probe comprising a plurality of unevenly spaced graduations along its length, each graduation indicating a size factor used to scale the image produced by the endoscope. The invention also relates to a method of determining the size of an object in a patient's body cavity including the steps of: generating an image of the object using an instrument; extending a probe having a series of unevenly spaced graduations from the instrument to the object; identifying the graduation on the probe visible in the image nearest to the instrument; and scaling the image viewed by the endoscope by a size factor corresponding to the identified graduation.

24 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

